MSP of wheat and paddy

†1196. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent increase in the MSP of what and paddy has been made during the last five years, year-wise and to what extent cost price of farming has increased;

(b) whether the loss caused to farmers due to drought and flood is also taken into account while fixing MSP;

(c) the per quintal price of wheat imported from abroad alongwith the per quintal transportation expenses thereof;

(d) the quantity of wheat procured by Government last year and during the current financial year, separately; and

(e) the reasons for meager purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The average annual increase in the cost of production of paddy has been 1.3 percent during 2002-03 and 2006-07, which is commensurate with the increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy during the same period. For wheat, the average annual increase in the cost of production during 2001-02 and 2005-06 had been 3.12 percent, while the increase in its MSP, inclusive of the incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal for 2005-06, had been 3.14 percent.

(b) The Government decides on the MSPs taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments and other important relevant factors. The CACP takes into account the produce resulting under normal conditions. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) addresses crop damage due to natural calamity. Drought relief has been granted to farmers in drought years.

(c) The C&F cost of imported wheat ranges between Rs. 798.10 per quintal and Rs. 910.10 per quintal. The freight element was taken as Rs. 21.30 per quintal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the amount of wheat procured since 2004-05 is indicated below:

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Procurement
2004-05	167.96
2005-06	147.87
2006-07	92.25*

*upto 25.07.2006

(e) The reasons for low procurement of wheat during Rabi marketing season 2006-07 were lower market arrivals, higher ruling market prices, lower level on stocks at the time of procurement and aggressive purchase of wheat by private traders.

Coverage area of Bt. Cotton

1197. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has now become a major player in the transgenic crops by achieving coverage area of 50,000 hectares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has hiked its Bt. Cotton areas coverage by 400 per cent between 2002-04;

(c) if so, the percentage of increase in Andhra Pradesh since introduction of Bt. Cotton in the country; and

(d) in what manner Government are planning to galvanise the global biotech crop market in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Bt. Cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in India by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). The area under Bt. Cotton crop was approximately one million hectares during Kharif, 2005.